and classified hotels. These would serve to provide high quality transportation to tourists.

Further, certain amendments have been made in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in an effort to streamline traffic facilities between States. Under this scheme, tourists vehicles would be able to travel amongst three or more States on a single point taxation, and the home State, which would also avoid delays at entry points of adjoining States.

In order to maintain high quality of service, the Department of Tourism conducts inspection of the vehicles owned by tourist transport operators. Recognition is given on the basis of fulfilling the stringent conditions laid down by the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

Construction of Bridges by Companies of US and UK

6333. SHRI G.Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued letters of Intent to US and UK companies for building bridges in the country on the "Buld, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis;

(b) if so, the particulars of the companies asked to build bridges and their location;

(c) the capital outlay involved in each case;

(d) what control would Government exercise on the BOT bridges safety built-up and their maintenance; and

(e) how for it will go to fill the gap between the demand and supply in the ever-increasing road transport sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Letter of Intent in respect of second Vivekananda Bridge in West Bengal was issued to M/s CRSS, California and in respect of second Narmada Bridge in Gujarat to M/s Costain, UK and M/sVelecha Engg. Bombay. Letters of Intent were for the preparation of the project by potential entrepreneur without any commitment for award of work or reimbursement of expenditure incurred.

(d) These bridges will be built as per Indian Road Congress Standards and Specifications.

(e) It is too early to indicate details in this regard.

12.00 Noon

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. Mr Jagdish Tytlers.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) Third Suplementary Agreement between the President of India and Governor of Orissa under the National Highway Act, 1956.

(ii) Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in Englihs an Hindi) of the Third Supplementary Agreement cntered into between the President of India and the Governor of Orissa to partially amend and/or modify the Agreement dated the 20th July, 1961 also between the President of India and the Governor of Orissa under section 8 of the National Highways Act, 1956 regarding maintenance and development of urban links of National Highways in Orissa, under section 10 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 7662/95].

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport Shipping

Wing (Merchant Shipping), under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:—

(1) GSR NO. 49(E), dated the 2nd February, 1995, publishing the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Amendment Rules, 1995.

(2) GSR NO. 270(E), dated the 16th March, 1995, publishing the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) for the Amendment Rules, 1995.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7661/95].

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Sir, I have a point to raise.

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.)

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, I have a point to make.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it?

SHRI MD. SALIM: Shri Jagdish Tytler is to lay two sets of Papers He is going to lay some Papers relating to Item No. 2 listed against his name. This relates to the amendment of rules regarding Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate). I want to know from the Minister what he is trying to lay. What is this 'Continuous Discharge Certificate'? Who is going to discharge? Even if you are going to discharge, why continuously? Madam, would you ask the Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*. I am narrating a story. It is a very interesting thing. *(Interruptions)*.... I want to know from the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that paper? What is the problem?...*(Interruptions)*... Let me first look at the Paper? I have just come. What are you referring to? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Continous discharge for whom? ...*(Interruptions)*... How and why? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): The Minister should tell us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. SALIM: How continuously? Ask the Minister to enlighten us, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is at Item No. 2. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr Narayanasamy, please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Tytler, Shri Md. Salim wants to say something. They want to find out something. What is the story, Mr. Salim? Do not take long time. There is only one Paper to be laid.

SHRI MD. SALIM: I am not going into that. This relates to seamen, the sailors and the people who are engaged in foreign going ships. This is about amendment of the rules. In the nomenclature, it is mentioned 'Continuos Discharge Certificate.' Madam, you are employing someone. Instead of giving appointment letter, you are giving discharge certificate. ...*(Interruptions)*... This was introduced during the days of the British. And, even after 48 years of independence this practice is still going on! This should not be there. This is a colonial system. You are taking some people, you are engaging some Indian people in the foreign-going ships and instead of giving employment you are giving discharge certificates. That means, you can be fired any time and the Minister is coming here without knowing all this? ...*(Interruptions)*... The Parliament cannot be taken for a ride like this ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Without appointment how can they give discharge certificate? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, almost every year, since 85 we are amending this Merchant Shipping Act. Why could not we amend this and recodify it, after Independence? I have nothing against this Act. It should be updated and recodified. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please look into the matter because he feels that from 1885, more than a century, this is going on. If these people are not getting permanent jobs

and only discharge certificates, they become casual labourers any time. Please look into the matter and take care of it. I think, the committee can take care of it.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to inform the hon. Member that I have noted what he has stated. But, since this is a very technical point, I will have to get a full clarification about it and I will bring the same to your notice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can be looked into by the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, because this is an act of Parliament, it can be looked into and taken care of.

Now, let us go ahead with something else.

RE: REPORTED STATEMENT MADE BY THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER OF SRI LANKA AT MADURAI

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, we want to raise a very important issue ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a very serious issue, Madam ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAJAN: (Tamil Nadu) Madam, Sri Lankan Rural Development Minister came to Madurai ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have already a little difficulty today because we do not have the Zero Hour. But as the Minister for External Affairs is here, you can refer to it so that he can look into the matter and come to the House ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not the Zero Hour now

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAJAN: Last ...*(Interruptions)*... Sri Lankan Minister came here ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुदर सिंह भंडारी (उपलब्ध): जीरो आवर नहीं है। जिसने नोटिस दिया है उससे से आपने पूछा दिया कि नहीं है तो फिर यह क्या है?

उपसभापति: जीरो आवर नहीं है यह है।

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAJAN: He has equated Shaheed Bhagat Singh with Pirabhakaran ...*(Interruptions)*... He has said so on the Indian Territory ...*(Interruptions)*... As the Minister is here, he should react to it ...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, please give us permission to raise this issue because we have already given a notice in this regard ...*(Interruption)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one second, please ...*(Interruption)*... Let me explain to the Minister. Will you please sit down? ...*(Interruption)*... Mr. Mukherjee, today we have your Calling Attention and it is our tradition in this House that the Chairman does not permit any Zero Hour mention or any matter other than the Calling Attention. But the Members, Shri Narayanasamy, Shri Suresh Pachouri and Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan, are very agitated over the statement which was alleged to have been made by a Sri Lankan Minister.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FHOTEDAR (Uttar Pradesh): The House is concerned about it ...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We want the entire House to be concerned about it.. *Interruptions)*..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, will you please sit down? Please keep quiet, when I am speaking. I have not yet finished. The whole House might be concerned about it. They gave notice in writing ...*(Interruption)*... that they wanted permission to raise this issue in the House. As there is no tradition of raising any matter other than the Calling Attention when it is there. I thought you are here and this matter concerns the Foreign Minister another country and so it is better just to bring to your notice that matter, so that you can look into it and at any other time you can bring it to the House or explain and clarify as to what the situation is, because it is agitating the minds.